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COMIC BOOKS ???
WHAT THE FUCK ???



COMIX WORLD 20. December, 1974. Copyright by Clay Geerdes. 915 Indian Rock Rd., Berkeley, Ca 94707. All rights reserved. Sub. & back issues for \$5.25. Logo for this ish donated by Jay Kinney. Jay has done the cover for YOUNG LUST 4, which went on sale this week. The scene is set in Gunga Din's, a bar based upon the many fern bars that proliferate the Bay Area. The concept is simple: old barnwood walls, antique mirrors and ads and mixed period furniture, tiffany lamps, vari-shaped pots of fern suspended from the ceiling--that setting complemented with cheap drinks, mainly Irish coffee, gin fizzes (Ramos), white Chablis and beer, makes up the illusion that the world is just one big comfortable living room. Locally, these bars are called "body exchanges" or "Body bars" or "Body shops." Some of the cocktail waitresses who hustle in them call them "Sweat shops." They cater to all ages, but most of the clientele make the average appear to be mid-twenties. Best known are Henry Africa's, Lord Jim's, The Pub, Churchill's, and Perry's. Kinney's scene is set in a hetero bar, but some of the body bars cater to both gay and straight, particularly those along Polk Street. His characters are busy being apathetic about sex, and that may or may not coincide with the reader's experience. YL4 is in



color. The art included: "5th Grade Confidential"--Kinney. "A Dog-Boy and a Geisha--Green." "Gilly Conquers his sex problem by Roger Brand. "Simian Sin!" by Kim Deitch. "Little Signs of Passion--Art Spiegelman.

Well, only a few books came out in 1974; most were quality books like SLOW DEATH 6, SHORT ORDER 2, and THE FIRST KINGDOM, but it you were a reader who expected the volume of ugs you got in previous years, you were probably disappointed. 1974 was a strange year in many ways. Around Berkeley, it was apolitical, a great one for the Greeks--Believe me, it's back to weekend drunks, folk music, a lot of nostalgia, and more than just a trace of despair in the tone and attitude of those who are prone to deep-reading & thinking. You'll see the ultimate in nostalgia in the January PLAYBOY, a Shelton/Sheridan color Freak Brothers spread. And didja know Gilbert Shelton and Joel Beck were the only ug artists featured in Dan Carlin'sky's

CENTURY OF COLLEGE HUMOR (Random House, 1971)? Both of Shelton's panels (164,65) are chicken jokes. He and Jaxon did their early work in THE TEXAS RANGER. I don't have any of those, but I've got the early PELICANS that first published Beck and Roger Brand. Brand's THE OLD WITCH AND THE TOAD appeared in April, '64, In Dec., '65, Beck and Brand teamed up and did 5 pages "On Junk." Both artists are still in the Bay Area. In 1971, Beck did a SOFT-CORE COLORING BOOK, and if any readers are interested, I'll try to find out what happened to that book. It was published and I'm sure there are copies somewhere. Brand had some personal trouble earlier this year which prevented his finishing a few projects, but his second TALES OF SEX AND DEATH is nearly complete and will be published by Spring I'm sure. I'm told there is a fourth INSECT FEAR in progress. . . . Soon: BRAIN FANTASY 2, WIMMEN'S 4, MANHUNT 2, STOMP, SNARF 6, FUNNYWORLD 16, & FIRST KINGDOM2

"Smeared Twilight" by Kinney and Ned Sonntag. "Raw Meat" by Spain. "Scenic Views from the Griffith Observatory" by Bill Griffith. On the inside front cover is a story by Nancy Griffith: "Love On The Run," and Crumb's "The Red Hot Romances of Shlub Mugubb" is on the inside back cover. The Print Mint published it. It's a dollar & I'm sure any of the companies listed on the back of this sheet have it in stock by now. What do I think? It's a nice comic. Pick one up. * * * * *

To your right is Pat the Cat on a Kruppcard. There are eight in the set done in 1973 by various underground cartoonists. In the Bay Area, they are being sold by Last-Gasp, and you can get them along with BRAIN FANTASY #2, the new one by Larry Todd. Right now, he's doing a sword of sorcery coloring book for Troubador Press in San Francisco. More info on that in the near future. Looks like we have to wait for DR. ATOMIC 3 until this Spring. . . . Rumor is that R. Crumb and his Keep On Trucking Orchestra may be touring college campuses soon. He's the fellow with the moustache and the banjo. . . . I see Shel Dorf has become Marvel's Man on the West Coast, but will it make him happy? C.G



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THE MAGAZINE is Trent Dunphy. He's a collector and has a lot of mint mags from the 30's and 40's, some pulps, "vintage erotica," & items like movie stills, promo kits, posters, & other collectables. . . . I've learned that a limited number of copies of EARTH ISLAND 1 (1970 Crumb cover) are available from Joshua Forest, 2870 Summit Avenue, Highland Park, Ill 60035. Send query. . . . The Moods Publishing Empire is Michael T. Gilbert & some friends and they have published two issues of NEW PALTZ. They're at 40 Pinewood Drive, Commack, New York 11725. I think interested collectors ought to check them out. #2 has some nice work by Raoul Vecina & a satire on you-know-who's THE SPIRIT. "The Sprite" doesn't make out too well in the 1970's. Seems he's a pretty callous and violent character. I've just finished reading a couple by Joyce Carol Oates (novels, folks, not comix), THEM and WONDERLAND, and lemme

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LAST-GASP ECO-FUNNIES, 1274 FOLSOM ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA. has a new batch of t-shirts on sale for the Christmas season. Designs are Betty Boop (red and black), Dr. Atomic (green), Harold Hedd (blue and brown) and Last Gasp Comix (our Skull and roses). All t-shirts are \$5 with this coupon. Order early.
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MTM, P. O. Box 394, Crawford, N. J. 07016. Both issues \$1.50 postpaid. . . . **LAST MINUTE NOTES:** A new one by S. Clay Wilson, TWICE, and the second issue of MANHUNT were published this week. . . . STARREACH 2 out in Jan. says Mike Friedrich. Mike's one of the speakers at Comics in America Day, January 18, 1975, at UC in Berkeley. On hand will be Steve Englehart, Tom Orzechowski, Jack Katz, Dick Lupoff, Frank Brunner, Al Weiss. Info: 642-7477. . . . Ugs in Finland? Yep. Pekka Gronow publishes JYMY there. He reprints a lot of American cartoonists. Artists may write him at: Pietarinkatu 12A21, 00140 Helsinki 14, Finland. . . . Hugo Van Baren says Artsy-Partsy Funnies will be ready by Christmas. Details on that book in CW 12. . . . Looking for an anthology? I recommend WHERE DO YOU DRAW THE LINE, edited by Vic Cline. A lot of fine research on media violence, censorship, pornography, & related stimulating topics for frosh and soph debate. \$6.95 from Brigham Young Univ. Press, Provo, Utah. Joyeux Noel!

REVOLUTIONARY ART DEPARTMENT:

A portrait of Clay Geerdes. Nope, a drawing by Brazilian artist, Sergio Macedo, from a book published in 1972 & not now available in this country. Macedo mixes a vision of technology and terror, combining nightmare images with everyday events. Imagine enormous IBM machines capable of whipping their programmers and you've got an inkling. Macedo's is historical horror, a world where men are pursued and destroyed by mechanical monsters of their own creation. The macho on the right is tame compared to a lot of the characters in Macedo. Why is he here? Well, I thought you'd like to see him, and it's possible this book may be printed in this country later on in 1975. There are comics in most countries, even in Russia. OCTOBRIAN was smuggled out back in 1971. C. G.

